

# American Pie

Don McLean

intro: chords for chorus

v1:

C G Am Dm F Am G  
 A long long time ago, I can still remember, how that music used to make me smile  
 C G Am Dm F  
 And I knew if I had my chance, that I could make those people dance,  
 Am G  
 And maybe they'd be happy for a while  
 Am Dm Am Dm  
 But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd deliver,  
 F C Dm F G  
 Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step  
 C G Am Dm G  
 I can't remember if I cried, when I read about his widowed bride  
 C G Am F G7 C F C  
 But something touched me deep inside, the day the Music Died So,

chorus:

C F C G C F C G  
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie, drove my chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
 C F C G  
 And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
 Am D7 Am G7  
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die, this'll be the day that I die.

v2:

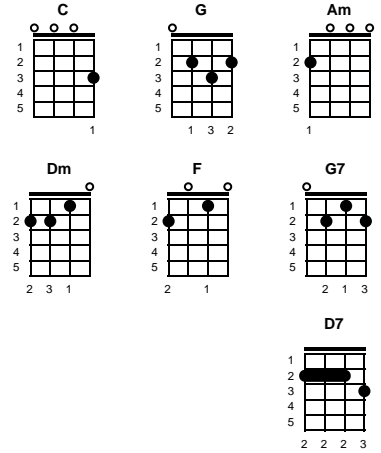
C Dm F Dm  
 Did you write the book of love, and do you have faith in God above?  
 Am G C G Am  
 If the Bible tells you so, do you believe in Rock 'n Roll?  
 Dm F Am D7 G  
 Can music save your mortal soul? And can you teach me how to dance real slow?  
 Am Dm Am Dm  
 Well, I know that you're in love with him 'cause I saw you dancin' in the gym  
 F C D7 F G7  
 You both kicked off your shoes, Man, I dig those rythm and blues  
 C G Am Dm F  
 I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck, with a pink carnation and a pickup truck.  
 C G Am F G7 C F C G7  
 But I knew I was out of luck, the day the music died, I started singin' -- **CHORUS**

v3:

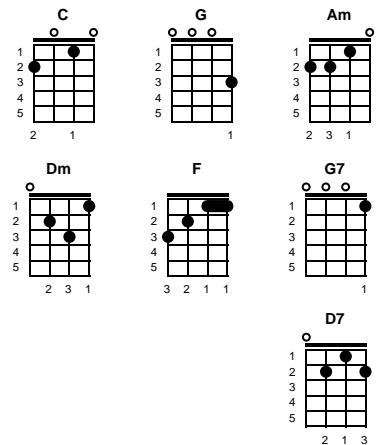
C Dm F Dm  
 Now for ten years we've been on our own, and moss grows fat on a rollin' stone  
 Am G C G Am  
 But that's not how it used to be, when the jester sang for the King and Queen  
 Dm F Am D7 G7  
 In a coat he borrowed from James Dean, and a voice that came from you and me  
 Am Dm  
 Oh, and while the King was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown  
 F C D7 F G7  
 The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned  
 C G Am Dm F  
 And while Lennon read a book of Marx, the quartet practiced in the park  
 C G Am F G7 C F C G7  
 And we sang dirges in the dark, the day the Music Died, we were singin' -- **CHORUS**

Key of C

## STANDARD



## BARITONE



Key of C - 2

v4:

C Dm F Dm  
 Helter-Skelter in a summer swelter, the Byrds flew off with a fallout shelter  
 Am G C G Am  
 Eight miles high and falling fast, it landed foul out on the grass  
 Dm F Am D7 G7  
 The players tried for a forward pass with the jester on the sidelines in a cast  
 Am Dm Am Dm  
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume, while the sargeants played a marching tune  
 F C D7 F G7  
 We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance  
 C G C Am Dm F Am  
 'Cause the players tried to take the field, but the marching band refused to yield  
 C G Am F G7 C F C G7  
 Do you recall what was revealed, the day the Music Died? We were singing

chorus:

C F C G C F C G  
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie, drove my chevy to the levy but the levy was dry  
 C F C G  
 And them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye  
 Am D7 Am G7  
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die, this'll be the day that I die.

v5:

C Dm F Dm  
 Oh, and there we were all in one place, a generation lost in space  
 Am G C G Am  
 With no time left to start again, so come on, Jack be nimble, Jack be quick  
 Dm F Am D7 G7  
 Jack Flash sat on a candlestick, 'cause fire is the Devil's only friend  
 Am Dm  
 Oh, and as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage  
 F C D7 F G7  
 No angel born in hell, could break that Satan's spell  
 C G Am Dm F  
 And as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial rite  
 C G Am F G7 C F C G7  
 I saw Satan laughing with delight, the day the Music Died. He was singing -- CHORUS

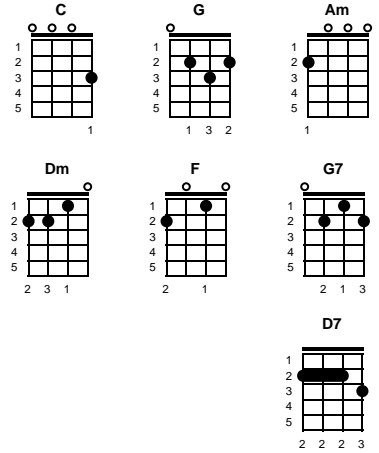
v6:

C G Am Dm F  
 I met a girl who sang the blues, so I asked her for some happy news  
 Am G C Am  
 But she just smiled and turned away. I went down to the sacred store  
 Dm F Am F G  
 Where I heard the music years before, but the man there said the music woudn't play  
 Am Dm Am Dm  
 And in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried, and the poets dreamed  
 F C Dm F G  
 But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken  
 C G Am Dm F G7  
 And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost  
 C G Am Dm G7 C F C  
 They caught the last train for the coast, the Day the Music Died.

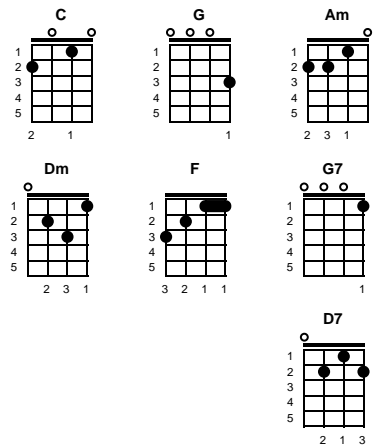
ending:

G7  
 And they were singing -- CHORUS They were singing -- CHORUS

### STANDARD



### BARITONE



### Key of C - 1